



FEMA

# Disaster Information

Residents are urged to take precautions with respect to potentially hazardous water.

Flooding can carry waste materials from sewers, septic tanks, cesspools, barnyards, and pit privies into a well. Water from a well that may have been flooded should not be used for drinking until the well has been sampled and found to be safe.

The following precautions are suggestions that residents in flooded areas may want to implement:

- If floodwaters have covered the wellhead of your home water system, that system will need to be cleaned and disinfected before the water will be safe for drinking again. Contact your local county environmental health office for well clean-up information. If you are on a public water system, listen to news from the public health department to find out if your water is contaminated.
- If water is contaminated, bottled water is the best choice. Plan for one gallon per person per day. If the water from your tap is clear, boil it for 3 minutes to disinfect or add 1/8 teaspoon household bleach per gallon of water. Let it sit for 1/2 hour.
- If water is cloudy, filter it by pouring it thru a coffee filter and then boil it for 3 minutes. If you can't boil it, filter it and add 1/4 teaspoon of household bleach per gallon of water. Let it sit for 1 hour.
- Use bleach to disinfect a well. Contact your local health department for instructions on amounts and procedures.
- After you disinfect your well, have a sample of your tap water tested at your local health department. Before you drink the water, make sure two samples are rated satisfactory to ensure it is safe and free of contamination.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and disinfected water to prevent spread of disease. This should be done before preparing or eating food, after toilet use, and after flood clean up when your hands may have touched articles contaminated from water or sewage.
- When in doubt, throw out fresh, frozen or dry food, such as cereal, that may have been in contact with contaminated water.
- Wear gloves and boots at all times to avoid touching anything with bare hands or feet. Parents should not allow children to play in flooded areas, and should ensure that their children wash hands often.

For more tips on cleaning up and keeping your family safe, visit [www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/flood/](http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/flood/), [www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/) or [www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/).